



## 2010s - A European Decade



Dear friends of EDS,

First of all I would like to wish you all a happy new year, and I hope you all had a wonderful celebration of the end of a decade which represents some of the largest steps towards European integration in the history of the European Union. Let us take some time and reflect on what has been accomplished the last 9 years.

In 2001 the Euro was launched, and millions of Europeans were able not only to travel throughout a borderless Europe, but also had the opportunity to use a single currency throughout their travels. The single currency is perhaps one of the major symbols of a united Europe, a Europe where we combine our strengths in order to secure economic stability and growth throughout the continent. In May 2004 Europe was once more reunited, when the first 10 of a total of 12 members of the former communist Eastern Europe were accepted into the European family; enabling further millions of Europeans access to the same fortunes of freedom, prosperity and endless opportunities, which the rest of Europe had taken for granted for decades. Today, only 5 years later, these countries are almost not recognisable when it comes to factors like economic growth, infrastructure and standard of living. For me this represents the power and force which lies in millions of people pulling in the same direction for one common aim; a strong and unified Europe. In 2007 further more countries were accepted into the Union, and hopefully the 2010's will see even more members in the European family. The grand finale of this decade was the signing of the Lisbon treaty, just months ago, an action which leaves me confident that Europe will move only in a positive direction in the years to come.

However we must also look outside of Europe, and here the picture is not so beautiful. News columnists throughout the world have deemed this decade as one of the most war torn decades in modern history. The threat of terrorism is at an all time high, many European nations are involved in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. As inhabitants of one of the most prosperous and politically stable regions of the world, it is our duty as Europeans to do our utmost in order to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And it is my firm belief that a united, integrated Europe is more than capable of doing this; and it should be our aspiration to be the leading force for peace and stability throughout the world as we enter the 2010's.

Bence Bauer  
Chairman of EDS

## EDS attends EPP Statutory Congress in Bonn



December 9-10: EDS was represented this year with a big delegation at the Statutory Congress in the former German capital of Bonn. During the 2 days-event EDS Bureau presented its new campaign "20 years after – generation 1989 speaks out" to the delegates and the guests of the Congress, approximately 1.500 people.

Already here, the booklet with testimonies of young people from today and young people from 1989 was distributed and promoted. EPP Vice Chairman Viktor Orbán underlined regarding the role of the young generation that it is up to them to learn from the mistakes of the communist past and not to accept to live with the communist lies.

During the Congress, EDS Chairman Bence Bauer addressed the auditorium, delivering a speech about the meaning of the unification of our continent for the youth. He spread the ideas of EDS how Europe should look like 20 years after – 20 years after today, in 2039. This Europe, EDS is seeking for, is a ONE EUROPE with no boundaries for the people.

EDS congratulated re-elected Chairman of EPP, Wilfried Martens and his Presidency. During the conference, which was held in the former German Parliament, the Bundestag, EDS could speak out with its new ideas to interest the public. Special thanks to all the EDS delegates and guests who helped during the Congress.

Read Chairman Bence Bauer's speech here:

<http://edsnet.eu/news/eds/77>

## Occupants at the Auditorium Maximum in Vienna (finally) Evicted

After being occupied by leftist activists for two months, the rectorate at the University of Vienna, ordered the eviction of all occupied premises in the main building of the university, including the auditorium maximum. The student movement emerged on the 22nd of October in the Auditorium Maximum of the University of Vienna, Austria. Several unorganized student groups started to protest against the bad situation of the



Austrian education system, according to their statements. The different student groups, in cooperation with radicals and leftist political movements, started to occupy the biggest lecture hall of Vienna's main higher education center. In the very beginning nobody expected the following developments – the protests spread over almost every university in Austria, lecture halls are occupied, demonstrations happen, overseen by intensive media coverage and daily news. The protest movement has already caused reasonable infrastructure damage, blocking learning opportunities for effort dedicated students and forcing universities to rent additional lecture halls for thousands of Euros. The Austrian Student Union, chaired by Ms. Sigrid Maurer of the Green & Alternative Students (GRAS), is incapable of working as a voice of the several protest groups and is even rejected by the occupying students. Leftist fractions in the Student Parliament support the protests but refuse to launch constructive talks with the Ministry of Higher Education, not taking into account the massive damage caused for the reputation to the official representative body of Austrian Students. In this frame it is in a certain respect appreciable that the protesters, working on a basic democratic fundament, found a well organizing structure to prevent complete chaos.

The occupying crowd formulated their claims in five points, which are mostly considered as unrealistic and utopian by Austrian society and political representatives.

- Education instead of formation: A fundamental review of the Bologna Process.
- Free university accession: Abolishment of tuition fees for all students and no entrance examinations
- Democratization of universities: Equality in between profs, students and scientific staff
- Full state financing: For science & research, free public transport and no students contribution
- Barrier free studying: Stop of precarious employment status and a gender quote of 50% in all areas.



EDS member Aktionsgemeinschaft at an early stage distanced themselves from this protest. Although AG acknowledged problems in the higher education area, they took distance from the methods put into practice.

Although the Vienna University is now liberated from its occupants, there are still occupations at over 80 European universities. EDS believes in dialogue and cooperation in order to solve problems, not conflict and occupation. And by this we urge our member organizations to distance themselves from such forms of protest across our continent.

## Croatian Presidential Elections Go to Round Two!



On 27th of December Croatians went to the polls to elect the president which will lead the nation for the next five years and to the EU.

There was no definite victor in the first round as none of the candidates received more than 50% of the votes. Closest to achieving that goal was the candidate from the social-democrat party (SDP), a law professor, member of parliament and a musician from Zagreb dr.sc. Ivo Josipović who had won 32.42% of the votes. His opponent in the second round will be the current mayor of Zagreb and former Josipović's party colleague Mr. Milan Bandić who had won 14.83% of the votes as an independent candidate.

Dr.sc.med. Andrija Hebrang who was the candidate of the ruling centre-right party (HDZ) which is the member of the EPP had got 12.04% of the votes which put him just behind Mr. Bandić in the race for the second round.

This result was a consequence of two former HDZ members and ministers with substantial financial and popular support going head-to-head with Mr. Hebrang in the elections taking jointly 17.26% of his potential electorate in the end.

Although the presidency might seem locked for Mr. Josipović at the moment, having such a huge margin against his runner-up, the second round could prove to be very exciting as Mr. Bandić is a notorious populist who is trying to reach out to this large centre-right electorate while many consider Mr. Josipović to lack any charisma to undergo such an endeavour.

All will be known on 10th of January when second round of elections takes place.

## Upcoming events

- **23. – 27 February EDS 20th Winter University in Brussels** – Invitations will be sent out by Secretary General Maria Keris within the first days of January.

## EDS Council Meeting in Israel; EDS' first official event in Israel since the 80's!



The 2nd Council Meeting of the working year 2009/2010 took place in Jerusalem, Israel and was hosted by Young LIKUD Congress. EDS had its last official meeting in Israel in the eighties. Considering the growing anti Israeli sentiments on the rise across Europe, especially among the youth, the Bureau saw it fit that EDS' members were given the opportunity to experience Israel with their own eyes. Thus gaining first hand knowledge about a country most young Europeans regretfully only knows from the portrayal it receives in European media.

During the stay from December 2-6, 2009 EDS gathered 50 participants from 25 countries with 25 organisations represented. This high participation is an impressive number for a December Council - even more when we take into consideration the destination that is far away from the centre of Europe.

EDS activists met Yariv Levin, Chairman of the House Committee of the Knesset and Naomi Blumenthal, former member of the Knesset and former Deputy Minister for Infrastructure. The leading politicians of the LIKUD party gave an impressive overview about the past, present and future of the State of Israel.

On behalf of the EDS Bureau we would like to pronounce a big thank you to the organisers from Young LIKUD Congress, especially Davidi Hermelin, Chairman of Young LIKUD Congress and Yoni Lipkin, International Secretary of Young LIKUD Congress and main organiser of this event.

## 2nd BullsEye of the Working Year in Production!

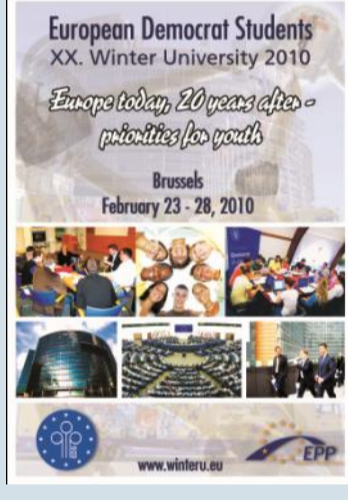


The editorial team of EDS' newsmagazine BullsEye is working hard in order to complete the next issue. As always contributions are more than welcome, and can be submitted to editor in chief Sandra Falkowska no later than January 5th 2010. Sandra can be reached by emailing:

[falkowska.sandra@gmail.com](mailto:falkowska.sandra@gmail.com)

## 20th EDS Winter University in Brussels – less than two months

In cooperation with our Belgian member organisations; edH and CDS the bureau is working hard in order to provide our members with an extraordinary winter university, as is fit when celebrating a 20th anniversary! And what could possibly be a better location than the heart of Europe; Brussels? Closeness to our colleagues at the EPP headquarters, EPP representatives in the European parliament, and former EDS activists across the EU system gives us the possibility to present our members with a programme which without doubt will be one of the most impressive lists of personalities speaking for our activists in EDS history. The bureau is looking forward to what will be very interesting and enjoyable Winter University.



## Finding back to common history; EDS invites alumni for dinner during its 20th Winter University in Brussels

The current EDS bureau is in the process of getting back in touch with, not only its former chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretary generals, but also people who have been active in EDS without necessarily having had a formal position in the organisation.

It is the bureau's firm opinion that EDS as an organisation will nothing but profit from forming closer ties with its former activists, and thus forming closer ties with our history as an organisation.

To make the initial steps of this work easier, it is of great honor for the bureau to invite alumni from all across Europe to attend an Alumni Dinner during the 20th EDS Winter University, which will be hosted in Brussels 23. – 27. February. The alumni dinner is tentatively planned for Friday 26. February.

An official invitation with a final date and venue will be sent out to alumni during the first weeks of January. If you are interested in attending, but have not received any emails from the bureau about this event yet, please contact Vice-chairman Andreas Willersrud: [willersrud@edsnet.org](mailto:willersrud@edsnet.org)

## Busy Chairman!

The month of December 2009 was again a busy month for EDS Bureau and Chairman Bence Bauer.



On December 1, Chairman met Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the EPP in Brussels and the Cabinet of José Manuel Barroso to discuss the invitations for the XX. Winter University.

From December 2-6, Chairman concluded the Council Meeting and 4th Bureau Meeting in Jerusalem. On December 8,9 and 10, EDS took part at the Statutory Congress of the EPP in Bonn where Chairman delivered a speech to the delegates and guests. During the Political Bureau in Bonn, besides Chairman, also Secretary General and Vice Chairmen represented EDS.

On December 14, Bence attended a congress of the Foundation for a Civic Hungary. On December 16, discussions with Konrad Adenauer Foundation Brussels were concluded and hotels negotiated for the Winter University in Brussels. On December 19, Chairman was invited to the Christmas diner of Fidesz Youth and on December 22 to that of ODM Slovakia in Zilina, where the venues of the upcoming XXX. Summer University could be evaluated, the hotel checked and the preparations followed.

Follow Bence Bauer on Twitter:

[@eds2009](https://twitter.com/eds2009)

## EDS Bureau Meets in Vienna 8-10 January



The EDS bureau will be meeting in Vienna kindly hosted by AG Austria. This will be the Bureau's 5th official bureau meeting, in addition to several unofficial bureau meetings both via skype and physical. During the meeting the bureau will, among other things, close the financial year 2009, prepare the winter university in Brussels, plan the alumni dinner, and reflect on their first six months in office. In addition they will lay the groundwork for their last six months in office, prioritizing work assignments in order to achieve the goals set in July for the working year. On the informal part they will be attending the Hofburg Ball on January 9th, which is starting to become a tradition of